

The Temptation of Jesus Mark 1:12-13

- According to legend, there was an island dominated by an Iron Mountain that emitted such powerful magnetic force that it attracted every piece of metal brought within the range of its influence. Ships at sea, passing near the shore of that land, felt its force on their anchors and chains. If the ship drew close the attraction became stronger until finally the very nails flew from the vessel's beams and planks, and fastened themselves to the side of the mountain. The ship, of course, would then fall to pieces with great loss of life.

Religious head lines are full of shipwrecked lives who were drawn into temptation.

No one is immune from temptation so we must always be on guard for it. How are we to defend ourselves against it? We look to our Saviour our master to learn from him concerning temptation.

I. The Promptness of The Trial - No sooner than the echo of the Voice of God faded then John Mark ushers us off into the scene of Jesus temptation. The timing of this temptation is significant.

A. The Instance of Scene - The temptation came after a time of Great spiritual clarity. Voice from heaven, Holy Spirit experience, validating, affirming, public, experience.

Burkette said... One would think that the higher you go with God the fewer the instances of temptation, but it's not so. Remember Faith possessed will be Faith tested. Paul saw and heard things unlawful for one to utter ^{Lord delivers from} messengers of Satan. Friend younger preacher, talking about all

B. The Insistence of the Spirit - The word drieth is a very strong word, much than ^{4th} Matter. It was used 11 times in Mark referring to driving out demons. Here it is referring to H.S. driving, casting out Jesus. Not as though Jesus was an unwilling... but ^{he} was compelled to face the tempter. First Act of H.S. was not to exalt Jesus, or empower for public display, it was to bring him into a place of Testing. God led children of Israel into the promised land, but also into some places of testing in wilderness. God never tempts, but may bring us

II. The Position of The Testing - vs 12 ends with the word "wilderness" the position of the trial, where it took place is very telling of the experience of the testing that Jesus endured.

A. The Dryness of the Place - When I think of wilderness I think of deep lush sugared forest. Here wilderness speaks of a dry barren desert somewhere near Jerico. A place where water and food are in short supply. This is such a picture of the believers experience. From a time of great emotional and faith building high, to a place of dryness. Where springing up water is hard to find. Where a morsel of nourishment is hard to come by. Haven't we all been there. Times of desert temptation make

B. The Desolation of His Person - vs 13 "He was there..." Doesn't it seem when trial + tempta... come, they make us feel isolated and alone. I think of a song I heard, "I'm forgiven because you were forsaken. I'm accepted, you were condemned. we could add, he was desolated

1) Burkett - Christ is no sooner out of the water of baptism, but he is in the fire of temptation

2) James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

3) bring is in to a place of temptation to "temper our strength." The goldsmith has a purpose for having the gold in the fire.

1) ...what good or evil is in a person? The Devil covered every way of temptation and yet Hebrews 4:15 say that he was ...in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. There is hope for your wilderness experience.

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so that I could know his company. Matt 28:20 Lk...
Also 40 days. Child of Israel in wilderness 40 years of fail-
ure - Jesus had victory in wilderness. ^{1st} Adam was in perfect
conditions and failed. Last Adam in worst conditions and victory

Take heart in the wilderness, you are not alone, He is our victor

III. The Plight of Temptation - We have
described the Emancipation of Temp. but what were
the elements of Temptation. Remember Jesus is God
and cannot sin. What's temptation for? He was being tempted as a
man.

A. A Devilish Temptation - Temple of
Satan. The accuser the slanderer the
adversary. The one who maliciously and
hostily brings false charges against one. We
know from Matt & Luke of the three temptations and how

Jesus responded. Message: How to talk back to the
Devil. But here we are not giving conversation - Just
word "Temple" The tense indicates a continuous
action, constant temptation, a constant barrage of
attacks. The word means basically to put to the test to see

B. A Dangerous Temptation - Mark also
adds this haunting phrase "in with wild beasts"
The region abounded with jackals, wolves,
foxes, leopards and hyenas. To me this speaks
of the ominous danger that surrounded

Christ. Alford - Beasts... one form of temptation
terror. I know he created wild beasts and has dominion
over, but again he is being tempted as a man.
My Granny Green, was in constant fear of unknown
This could cause us to look for shadows instead

IV. The Transcendence for the Trial - We have heard message upon message concerning the temptation of Christ. We know the end of the story. Victory! If he had failed our hopes shattered. A. Heavenly Agent - Here we find the involvement of some Heavenly Agents, Angels ministers. Minister means to serve usually at the command of others. The father looking sees the trial of beloved Son tempted as man, and send messengers to serve him. God sent what was needed. Heb 2:18 precious verse. This Jesus that was tempted can come to our aid and strengthen us in the heaviest of temptations. This is why we can boldly say 1 Cor 10:13 in face of B. Helpful Aid - This word ministered is in the imperfect tense meaning that it was a continuous action. Just like Jacob's ladder, angels were coming again and again with heavenly helpful aid. Just as the fiery darts of temptation from Satan came again and again, so help from heaven came again and again. These angels came again and again with spiritual strength to endure the temptation so that you and I can say as Job 23:10.

V. Closing - We so often are drawn into temptation. In the most unexpected times we are thrust into a flurry of satanic trial, but we can find deliverance and aid from the one tempted and w/o sin.

1) Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

2) 1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

3) Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.